

Survey of Isa. 7-12, 28-35

June 15, 1972

it but the destruction of the buffer kingdoms in between. And so that is one of the big subjects of Isa. 7 and 8, and one of the big subjects of Isa. 28 is the removal of the buffer kingdom, Ahaz's clever political scheme backfires and actually puts them in worse condition, worse danger than they were before.

That's the first of the grt. historic situations that lies in back of these sections of Isa. The second of the historical situations back of it, comes 30 yrs. later. I've listed on your sheet here

Sennacherib's Invasion 701 B.C. This is 30 yrs. later. Syria was incorporated into the Assyrian empire. Israel was held as a subject kingdom for 9 yrs. and then was incorporated. Now there is nothing in between Assyria and Judah. Ahaz of course is gone. This is now in the reign of his son, Hezekiah. But Sennacherib comes with his army in order to conquer Judah, and the Assyrian army which has conquered Syria and then 9 yrs. later has completely overcome Israel, can certainly be expected to conquer Judah which is so much smaller when they set themselves to do it. And so in 701 B.C. this grt. army under Sennacherib comes across. Israel and Syria are no longer in the way. There are no buffer states there to interfere. They come down along the coast there. They conquer the PHilistines/^{cities} and then they come up from there toward Judah. And as they come toward Judah they come toward the second largest city of Judah. That was called Lachish. And they beseiged Lachish and conquered it, and the king of Assyria established the HQD's at Lachish which was formerly the second greatest city of Judah. And from Lachish, he sends, we read in Chron, in Kings, and also in Isaiah, from there he sends messengers to Jerusalem to call on the people to surrender to him. And as the people look and they are called upon to surrender, it seems absolutely hopeless. It seems that there is nothing they could do to deliver themselves from Sennacherib. But now you don't have King Ahaz as the king. You have a different king now, you have Hezekiah, who is ready to follow Isaiah's advice and to look to the Lord instead of to some clever political ~~scheme~~ scheme for deliverance. And so Hezekiah looks to the Lord. He gets the message of defiance that Sennacherib